Information Technology and Patient Safety

Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH
Harvard Medical School
Division of General Medicine, BWH
Department of General Pediatrics, CH
Institute of Health Policy, MGH
Boston, MA

Iatrogenic Injury

- IOM Report
 - Medical errors kill 44,000-98,000 people a year
 - "More people die from medical errors each year than from suicides, highway accidents, breast cancer, or AIDS"
- Harvard Medical Practice Study, 1984
 - Adverse event rate of 3.7% for inpatients
 - Most common were complications of medication use (19.4%)
 - 71% resulted in a disability lasting less than 6 months, 14% led to death

 Leape, NEJM, 1991

Inpatient ADEs and Medication Errors, Adults

- Adverse Drug Event (ADE) Prevention Study
 - ADE rate of 6.5 per 100 adult inpatient admits
 - Costly and severe sequelae
 - About a third associated with medication errors
 Bates, JAMA 1995 and 1997
- Medication errors
 - Rate of 5 per 100 medication orders
 - 7% have potential for harm
 - 1% actually result in an injury Bates, JGIM, 1995

WAITING RO 199 BOSTON GLOBE IST. BY LA. TIMES SYND.

Error Prevention: Information Technologies

- Powerful tool but not a panacea
- Examples include:
 - Computerized physician order entry (CPOE) with clinical decision support
 - Computerized reporting systems
 - Computerized medication administration record
 - Robots
 - "Smart" intravenous devices
 - Automated drug delivery systems
 - Bar coding

Leadership and IT

Leadership is the capacity to hold a shared vision of that we wish to create.

- Peter Senge

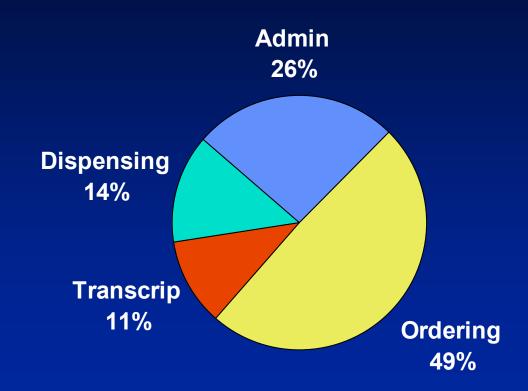
Overview

- What is CPOE?
- How does it improve the medication use process?
- Measurable effects
 - Medication errors
 - Physician time
 - Physician satisfaction
 - Costs
- Lessons and conclusions

Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE)

- Application that allows physicians to write all orders
 - Most things that happen in hospitals occur as a result of orders
 - Computerizing the ordering process creates structure
 - Allows contact with providers at key times
 - Targets the ordering stage

Error Stage for Serious Medication Errors



Why Implement Order Entry?

- Improve quality
 - ADE and med error reduction
 - Prescribing patterns and appropriateness
 - Guideline compliance
- Overall cost reduction (despite initial investment)
 - ADE and med error reduction
 - Laboratory and radiological test reduction
 - Efficiency
- Federal, private, and patient pressures to implement

Barriers to Order-Entry

- Initial cost
- Provider resistance to automation
- Inconsistency in availability of systems across different areas of practice (e.g. ambulatory setting)
- Tendency for hospitals to computerize business operations over clinical
- Design weaknesses in available systems

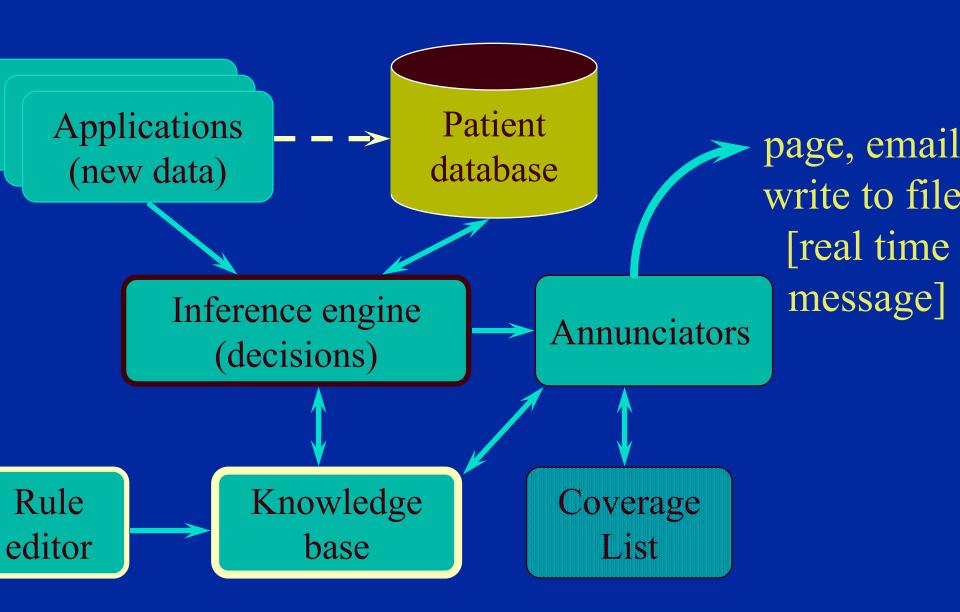
CPOE with Clinical Decision Support

- Streamlines and structures process
- Performs background checks
- Provides timely information
- Provides feedback about appropriateness of medications, laboratories, and radiological tests
- Provides feedback about costs of medications, laboratories, and radiological tests
- Allows easy implementation of clinical pathways

Physician Coverage List

- Functions
 - Identifies first and second-call physicians
 - Manages physician rotation
 - Handles evening coverage and signing out
- Facilitates delivery of computer-generated messages
 - Computer-page interface allows automated paging

Event monitor architecture



CPOE at BWH

- Implemented in 1993 with physician, pharmacist, nursing and hospital administration support and leadership
- Order entry linked with lab and pharmacy databases
- Decision to automate existing systems
- Constant focus on speed
- Multiple safety features
 - Drug-drug interactions
 - Renal dosing
- Continually adding to and refining the system

CPOE with Clinical Decision Support

- Streamlines and structures process
 - Provides doses from menus
 - Ensures complete orders
 - Ensures legible orders
 - Reduces transcription

Handwriting example

Combin 4 ps CP

Handwriting example

25 m/h

25 U or 25 cc per hour?

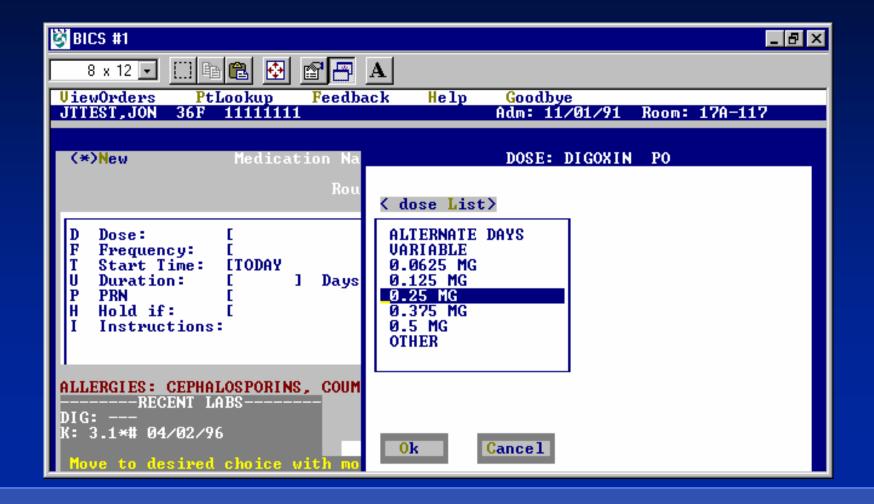


Medication Ordering

(completeness required)

ViewOrders		Feedback	Help	Goodbye			
TEST, TEST 281	F 00000000			Adm: 11/01/	91 Room:		
(*)New ()ChangE ()D/C ()Change Roo	Medicati	MEDI(on Name [f Route []		DER]	
D Dose: F Frequency T Start Time U Duration: P PRN H Hold if: I Instruction	e: [(]	Duration:	Total DoSes	or dAys	or ho <mark>U</mark> rs >	
ALLERGIES: PE	NICILLINS,	01		< Hold	> Lo	ading Dose	
Ok Cancel Enter all or part of the route (PO, NG, IU, etc).							

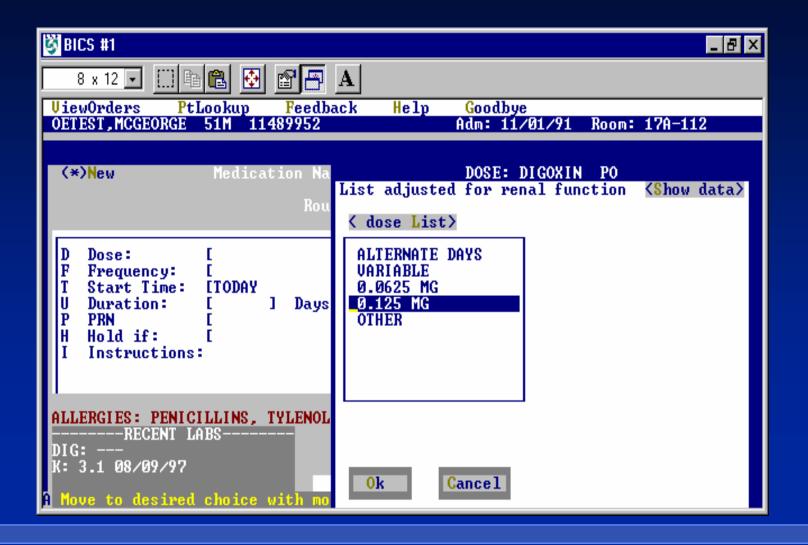
Listed Doses



CPOE with Clinical Decision Support

- Performs background checks
 - Drug-allergy
 - Dose ceiling
 - Drug-patient characteristics
 - Drug-laboratory
 - Drug-drug

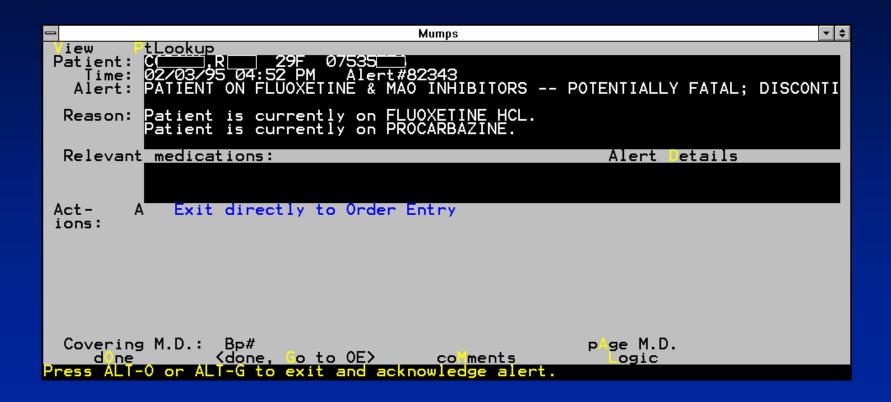
Dose List Adjustment for Renal Function



Drug-Allergy Interaction Warning

ViewOrders	PtLookup	Feedback	Help	Goodbye					
TEST, TEST				Adm: 11/01/91	Room:				
DRUG WARNING(S) FOUND									
Current Order:									
AMPICILLIN									
Warnings:									
DEFINI	TE ALLERGY								
222 1112	TE HEELINGT								
_									
_									
Message:									
Pt. has a DEFINITE allergy to PENICILLINS. (Documented allergy to PENICILLINS> anaphylaxis.)									
(Documented allergy to PENICILLINS> anaphylaxis.)									
(*)C Cano		0k							
С Ж кеер	(override) or	aer							
Use up & down arrow keys to read warning messages.									

Drug-Drug Interaction Checking



CPOE with Clinical Decision Support

- Provides timely information
 - Reduces reliance on memory and vigilance
 - Guided dose algorithms
 - Provides default route and frequency

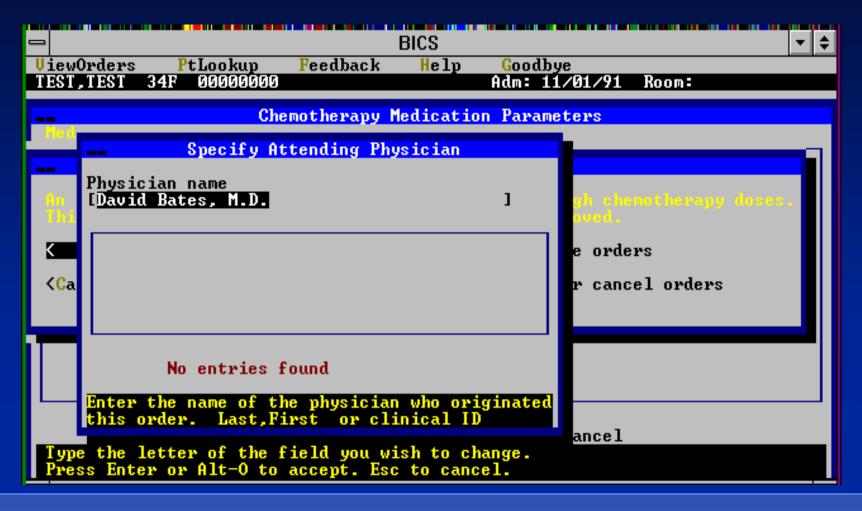
Example: Impact of CPOE on Chemotherapy Safety

- Handles order sets and protocols well
- Allows dose checking
 - Daily, weekly, and lifetime
- Performs calculations
- Performs background lab checks
- Allows enforcement of tiered restrictions on physician ordering
- Remembers individual medication history

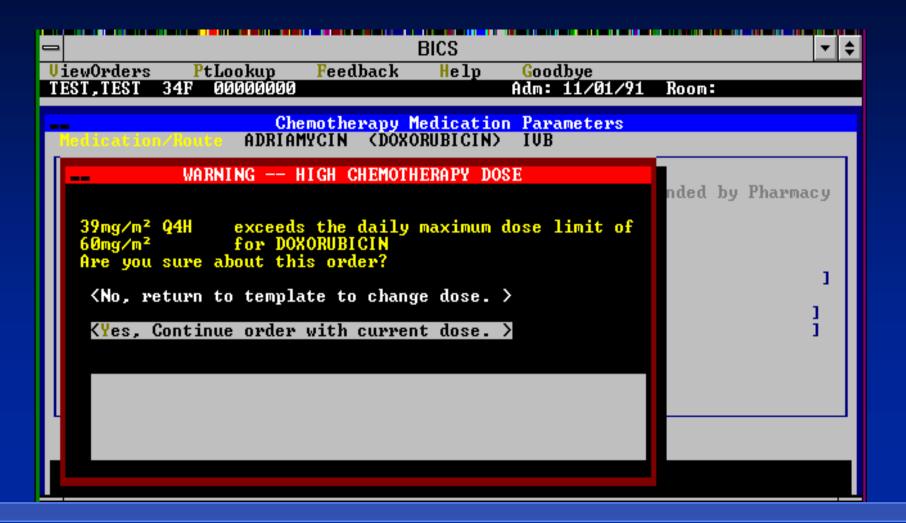
Chemotherapy Order: Patient Characteristics



High Chemotherapy Dose: Requires Attending Physician's Approval



High Chemotherapy Dose Warning



CPOE with Clinical Decision Support

 Provides feedback about appropriateness of medications, laboratories, and radiological tests

Medication Appropriateness

- Vancomycin intervention important due to VREF
- Provided reminders about appropriate use at time of initial ordering or renewing of drug
- Vancomycin use was reduced
 - Vancomycin-days/prescriber 37% lower
 - Duration of therapy 17% lower

Shojania, JAMIA 1998

"Panic" Laboratory Study

- For markedly abnormal results (K, Na, glucose, Hct)
 - Allows consideration of other factors
 - Direct interface with paging system
- "Before" data
 - Median time to rx 2.5 hours
 - For 25% > 5.3 hours
- RCT results
 - Mean time to rx 11% shorter (p<.0003)
 - Mean time to resolution 29% shorter (p=.11)
- 95% physicians pleased to be paged

Kuperman, JAMIA 1999

Chest Radiographs and Structured Ordering

Percent Acceptable

History

Assess/R/O

Before

78%

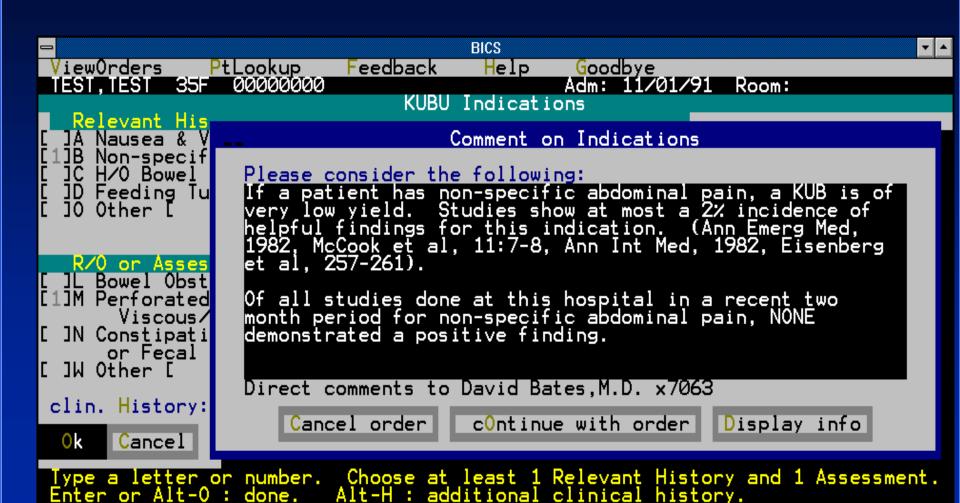
35%

After

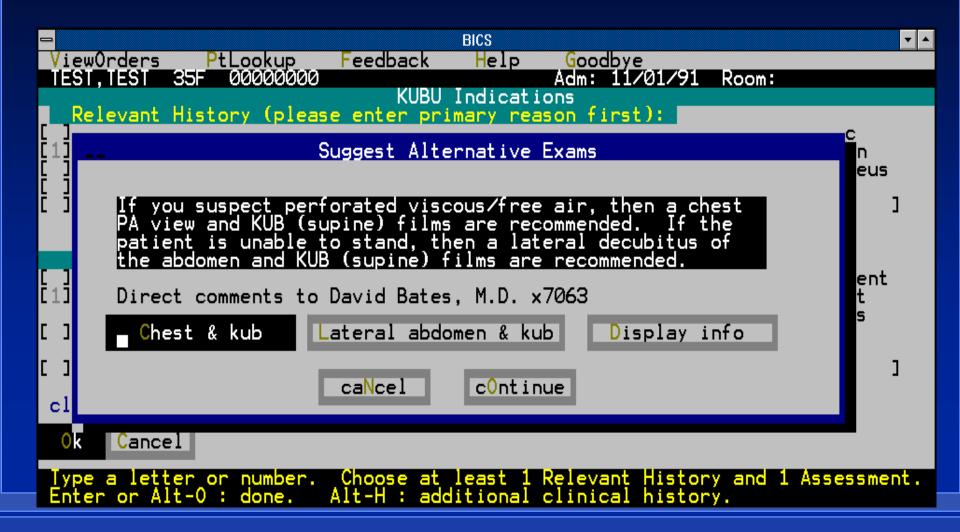
99%

99%

Low Yield Critique



Alternate Exam



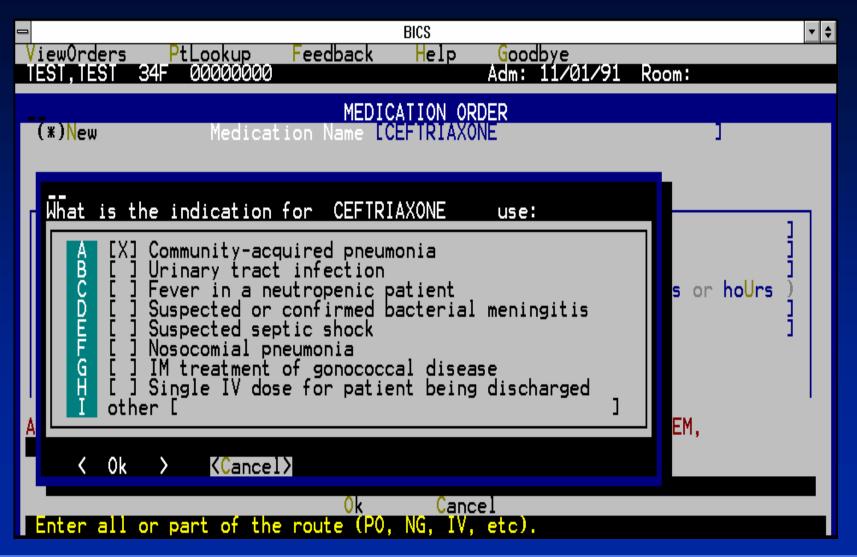
CPOE with Clinical Decision Support

 Provides feedback about costs of medications, laboratories, and radiological tests

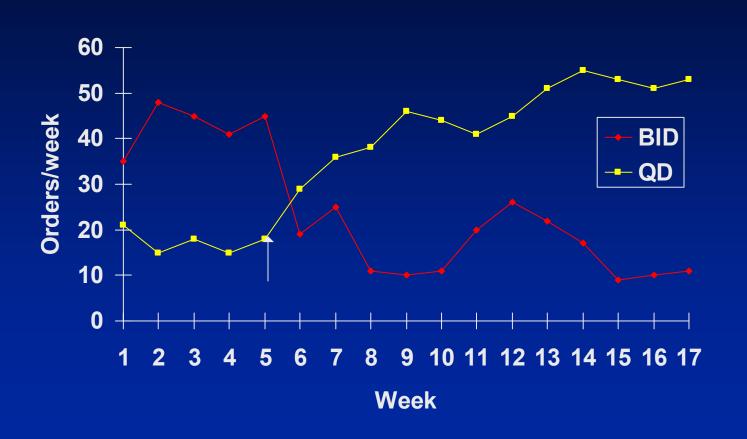
Reducing Drug Costs with Order Entry

- Types of useful suggestions
 - Drug interchange
 - Lower dose
 - Different route (IV-PO switches)
 - Guidelines for use

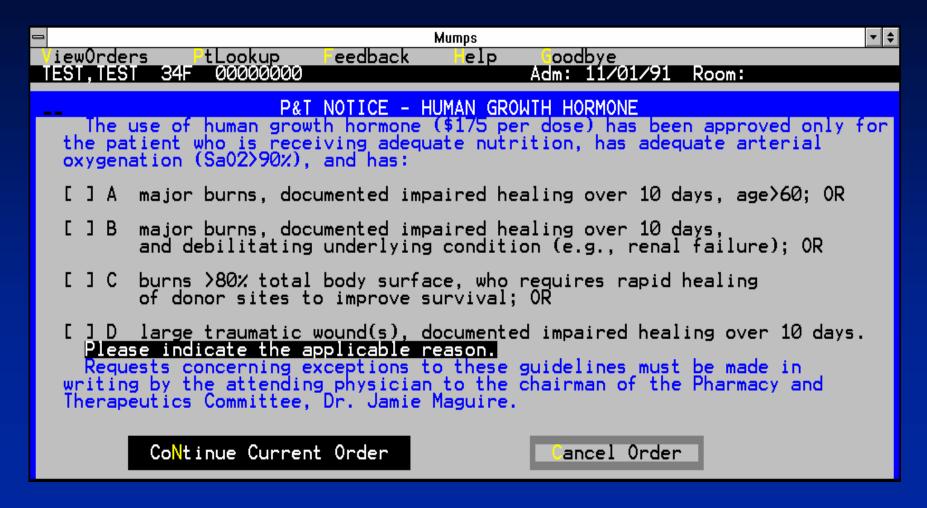
More Efficient Use of Medications



Effect of Changing Default Dosing Frequency for Ceftriaxone



Guideline for an Expensive Agent



Charge Display

```
Feedback
ViewOrders
                                       Help
                                                Goodbye
              PtLookup
TEST_TEST
                апапапапа
                                               Adm: 11/01/91
                                                              Room:
                               COMMON LAB ORDERS
             CBC
                                         BUN
                                                                      Amylase
         1B
             DIFF
                                         Creatinine
                                                                      Lipase
             PT
                                                                      Bilirubin
             PTT
                                         Glucose
                                                                      HCT
             U/A + Sed
                                         Blood Gas
                                                                      Urine C+S
             Profile 20
                                         Magnesium
                                                                      Type +Hold
                                                                      BČ x 2
             Profile 7
                               $17 [ ]P
                                         Calcium
                                                           $104[ ]Y
                               $130E JQ
                                                           $17 [ ]Z
                                                                      F'stick Glu
                                         CK + MB
   KNEXT TEST STATE NO
    Other Lab Test Names (separated by commas)
    Collection Time: NEXT AVAILABLE
    Instructions:
                                                ⟨D/C-Change⟩
                                                                 KMicrobiology>
 K_ 0k
             ⟨Cancel⟩
                          ⟨mUlti-day labs⟩
 ype the letter of test you wish to order. Type the letter again
Press Alt + red letter of the desired operation. Alt-O: accept. Esc:cancel
```

CPOE with Clinical Decision Support

• Allows easy implementation of clinical pathways

Order Entry and Critical Paths

- Critical paths specify what should happen for a specific day
 - Essentially sequences of order sets
 - In place for 25 diagnoses
- Have decreased LOS, costs, improved satisfaction
- Require physicians to select diagnosis at admission
 - Allows prompting about path
 - Increases likelihood path will be selected

A Study of CPOE and Medication Error Prevention

- Medication errors as main outcome
- Design: interrupted time series analysis over 5 years
- Intervention: POE at several stages of development
- Units studied: three medical units

Bates, JAMIA 1999

System Characteristics By Period

Baseline

- Hand written orders
- No automated decision support

System Characteristics By Period

Period 1

- Basic CPOE
- Minimal clinical decision support
 - Relevant laboratories displayed
 - Several drug-lab checks
 - Rudimentary drug-allergy checking
 - Redundant medication checking
 - Rudimentary drug-drug interaction checking
- Many orders entered using pre-approved order sets

Systems Characteristics By Period

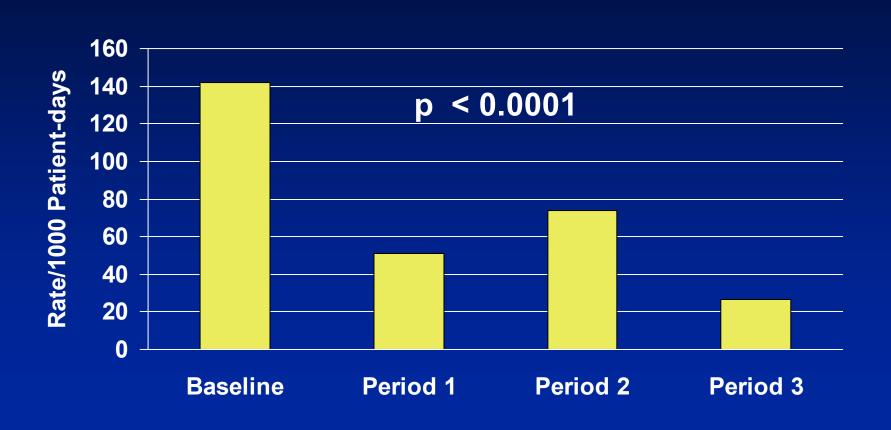
Period 2

Improved drug allergy checking

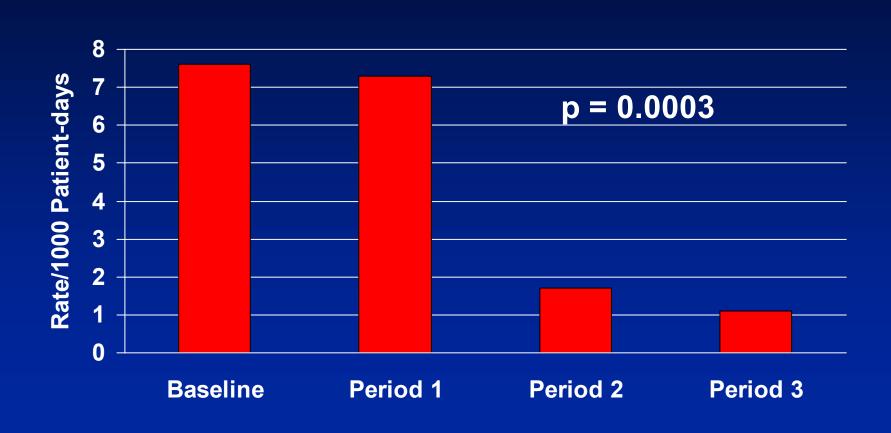
Period 3

- Improved potassium ordering
- Improved drug-drug interaction checking

Effect of POE on the Medication Error Rate



Effect of POE on the Serious Medication Error Rate



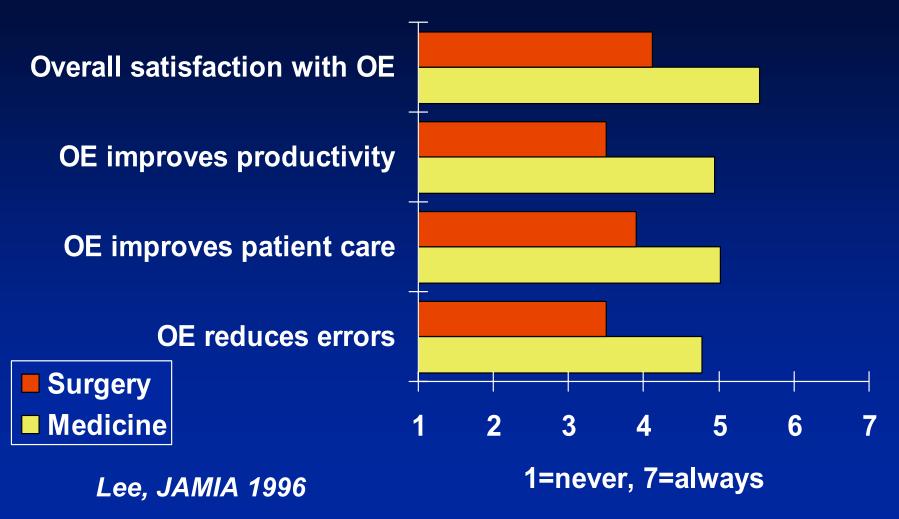
Study Conclusions

- Medication error rate fell 81%
- Serious medication error rate fell 86%
- Three quarters of reduction in medication error rate was achieved with a relatively simple system
- Reductions were found across many error types and in both general care units and ICUs

Impact of CPOE on Physician Time

- Order writing took twice as long on computer
 - Medical HOs 44 min/day, recovered half
 - Surgical HOs 73 min/day, no recovery
- Daily and one-time orders accounted for most of change, increasing 3-fold
- Sets of orders took half the time they did before order entry
- Interventions
 - Introduction of "Write 1"
 - Reorganization of screens to facilitate access to CPOE

HO Satisfaction with OE



Inpatient Costs of ADEs

- ADEs are expensive
 - \$2400 per ADE
 - \$4500 per preventable ADE
- Annual BWH costs estimated for 1997
 - \$5.6 million for all ADEs
 - \$2.8 million for preventable ADEs
- These figures exclude costs of:
 - Long term injuries to patients and malpractice suits *Bates, JAMA* 1997
- Total annual U.S. costs estimated to be \$76.6 billion

Johnson and Bootman

How Many ADEs Do You Have and What Do They Cost?

Beds	ADEs	Costs	Prev ADEs	Costs		
700	1900	4,680,000	530	2,410,000		
400	1086	2,670,000	304	1,380,000		
200	543	1,340,000	152	690,000		
100	272	670,000	76	350,000		

Rough Cost-Benefit for POE

- Costs:
 - Development \$1,000,000
 - Hardware \$400,000
 - Maintenance \$500,000/year
- Benefits:
 - Overall \$5-10 million/year charges
 - Main savings relate to efficiencies (re. drugs and tests)
 and ADE prevention

Lessons To Date

- Physicians are happy to change direction
 - Much less willing to stop after action started
- Respond well to quality-related suggestions
- Even simple interventions have high yield--and most likely to be accepted
- Satisfaction with these efforts good
- Integration with practice flow key
- Developers must think speed, speed, speed...

Surprises

- Groups of orders were even more important than expected, best regulated by departments
- Individual order sets weren't important and caused many problems
- Free text ordering was also problematic
- Key not to allow types of orders to bypass logic
- Important to have follow-up of major over-rides
- On-going support requires a lot of attention

What Do Providers Want From IT?

- Speed
- Ability to access information from multiple sites
- Different views of same information
- Ability to aggregate across patients
- Better information about performance
- Decision support that anticipates needs and doesn't waste time

What Can IT Do To Help?

- Can improve communication between:
 - Providers
 - Payors/providers
 - Patients/providers
- Can decrease costs, improve quality, by
 - Pointing out redundancies
 - Suggesting alternatives
 - Identifying errors of omission
 - Emphasizing important abnormalities
 - Making guidelines accessible
- Make routine quality measurement possible

Conclusions

- Environment demands value
 - Need to reduce costs
- Electronic records vital for providing integrated, inexpensive, high-quality care
- Decision support delivered using IT will be key tool for achieving this
 - Should be evidence-based
 - Will require manual help for education, followup
- Most future quality measurement will be done by computer as a part of routine care
 - Possible to measure outcomes routinely

Inpatient Medication System of the Future

- Providers write orders on computerized systems, get feedback
- Orders electronically sent to pharmacy
 - Computerized pharmacy system and pharmacist review
- Simple orders filled using automation
 - Pharmacy fills complex orders manually
- Point-of-care delivery devices linked with order-entry systems dispense medications
 - Intravenous medications delivered by "smart" systems
- All drugs, patients, personnel bar-coded
 - Computerized MAR records what given and when

ADEs In Outpatients

- 75% of office visits to PCPs associated with initiation or continuation of a drug
- Much less well studied
- Preliminary results of one study
 - Prescription screening (n=1173)
 - 4% medication errors and 5% potential ADEs
 - Patient survey at 2 weeks (n=661)
 - 27% reported an ADE
 - -36% of these were preventable (2/3 due to MD, 1/3 due to patient)

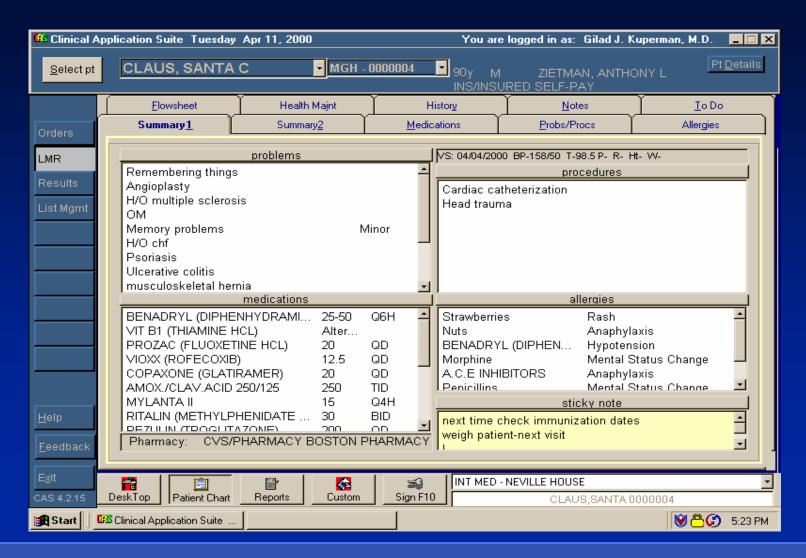
Outpatient Prevention

- Computerizing prescribing highest yield
 - Allergy detection
 - Notification about drug-drug interactions
 - Dose suggestions
- Paper prescribing is archaic
 - Electronic medical records
 - New handheld devices
- ISMP has called for eliminating handwritten prescriptions by year 2003

Outpatient order entry systems

- Most patients receive medications in the outpatient setting
- Significant cost and quality issues around outpatient ADEs and medication use
- Electronic medical records with computerized prescribing have potential for great benefit
- Recently implemented at BWH

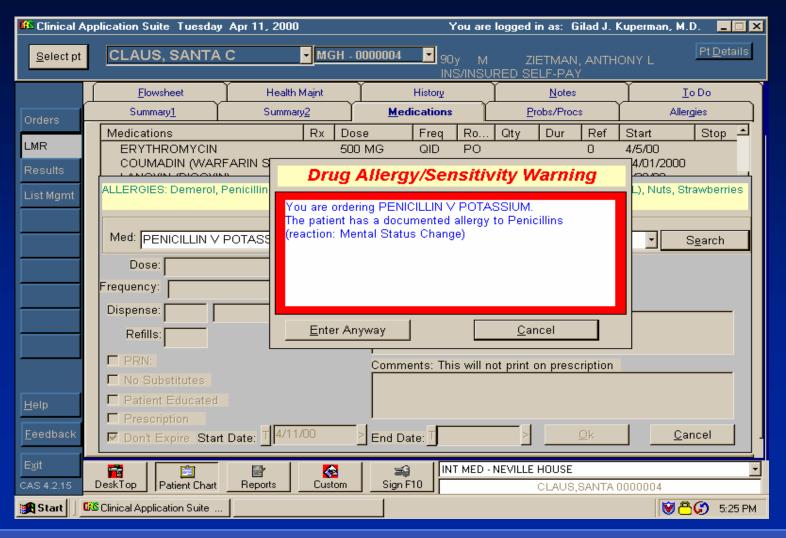
Summary screen



Enter a medication

Clinical Application Suite Tuesday Apr 11, 2000 You are logged in as: Gilad J. Kuperman, M.D.											
<u>S</u> elect pt	CLAUS, SANTA	C <mark>▼</mark> MG	H - 0000004	90 IN:	y M S/INSU	ZII RED SE		I, ANTH Y	ONY L	Pt <u>D</u> etails	
	<u>F</u> lowsheet	Health Maint	_	History		Ĭ	<u>N</u> otes		Ĭ I	o Do	
Orders	Summary <u>1</u>	Summary <u>2</u>		dications	Ĺ	<u>P</u> r	obs/Proc	os .	Allerg	gies	
	Medications	Rx	Dose	Freq	Ro	Qty	Dur	Ref	Start	Stop A	
LMR	ERYTHROMYCIN COUMADIN (WARI	FARINISODI RV	500 MG 1 MG	QID QD	PO PO	20	30	0 4	4/5/00 04/01/2000		
Results			0.05.40	-00	-00	400			20000		
List Mgmt	ALLERGIES: Demerol, I	enicillins, A.C.E INHII	BITORS, Morp	hine, BEN	NADRYL	_(DIPHE	NHYDR	(AMINE I	HCL), Nuts, Str	awberries	
	Med: CODEINE PHO	SPHATE				Route:	PO		<u>√</u> s	S <u>e</u> arch	
	Dose: 30 MG						-				
	Frequency: Q4H			uration of			day(s)				
	Dispense:		Instruc	tions:							
	Refills:										
	□ PRN:		Comm	ents: Thi	s will n	will not print on prescription					
	☐ No Substitutes	Add To Favorit									
<u>H</u> elp	☐ Patient Educated										
Feedback	☐ Prescription	= = 1 4/11/00						Oli	1 000		
Leedback	✓ Don't Expire Start	Date: 1 471 1700	≥ End D	ate: 📙		>		<u>O</u> k	<u>C</u> ai	ncel	
E <u>x</u> it CAS 4.2.15	DeskTop Patient Chart	Reports Custo			ΓMED -	NEVILLE		,SANTA	0000004		
Start]	Clinical Application Suite								V	€ 5:24 PM	

Drug allergy



Preliminary Studies

- Sites with basic computerized prescribing have a significantly lower rate of medication errors
- Further studies
 - Impact on serious medication errors
 - Cost-benefits

Outpatient Medication System of the Future

- Providers write computerized orders
 - Screened at time written
- Orders go electronically to pharmacy
 - Pharmacist review, counseling for new drugs, on demand
- Simple orders filled using automation
 - ATM-like devices with simple fills
- Patient web sites with medication information
 - Can track progress, report problems
 - Option to use home dispensing devices that record when medications taking

The Goal

• The best systems will not replace people with information technology, but rather create more time for people to spend on complex decisions by reducing menial tasks.

